



THE ALL-NEW, ALL-AWESOME

INVINCIBLE™

53

\$2.99



RYAN 08

ROBERT KIRKMAN • RYAN OTTLEY • CLIFF RATHBURN • FCO PLASCENCIA

image® COMICS PRESENTS

INVINCIBLE



ROBERT KIRKMAN

WRITER

RYAN OTTLEY

PENCILER

CLIFF RATHBURN

INKER

FCO PLASCENCIA

COLORIST

RUS WOOTON

LETTERER

COVER BY RYAN OTTLEY & BILL CRABTREE

CREATED BY ROBERT KIRKMAN & CORY WALKER

IMAGE COMICS, INC.

Erik Larsen - *CEO*
Todd McFarlane - *President*
Marc Silvestri - *CEO*
Jim Valentino - *Vice-President*

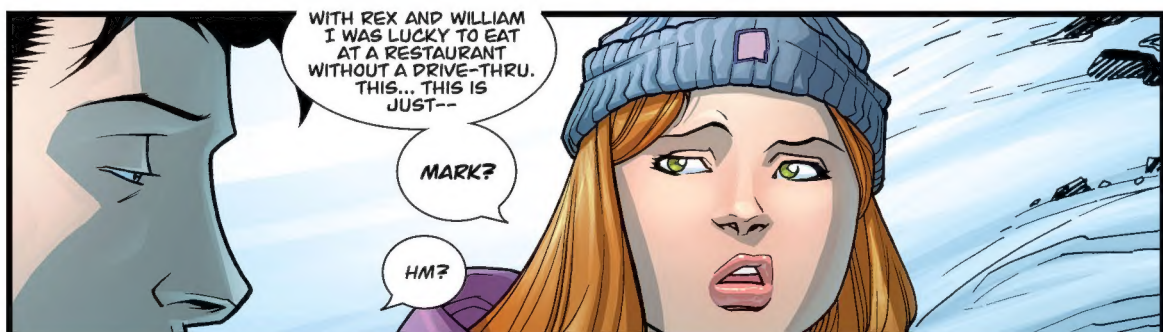
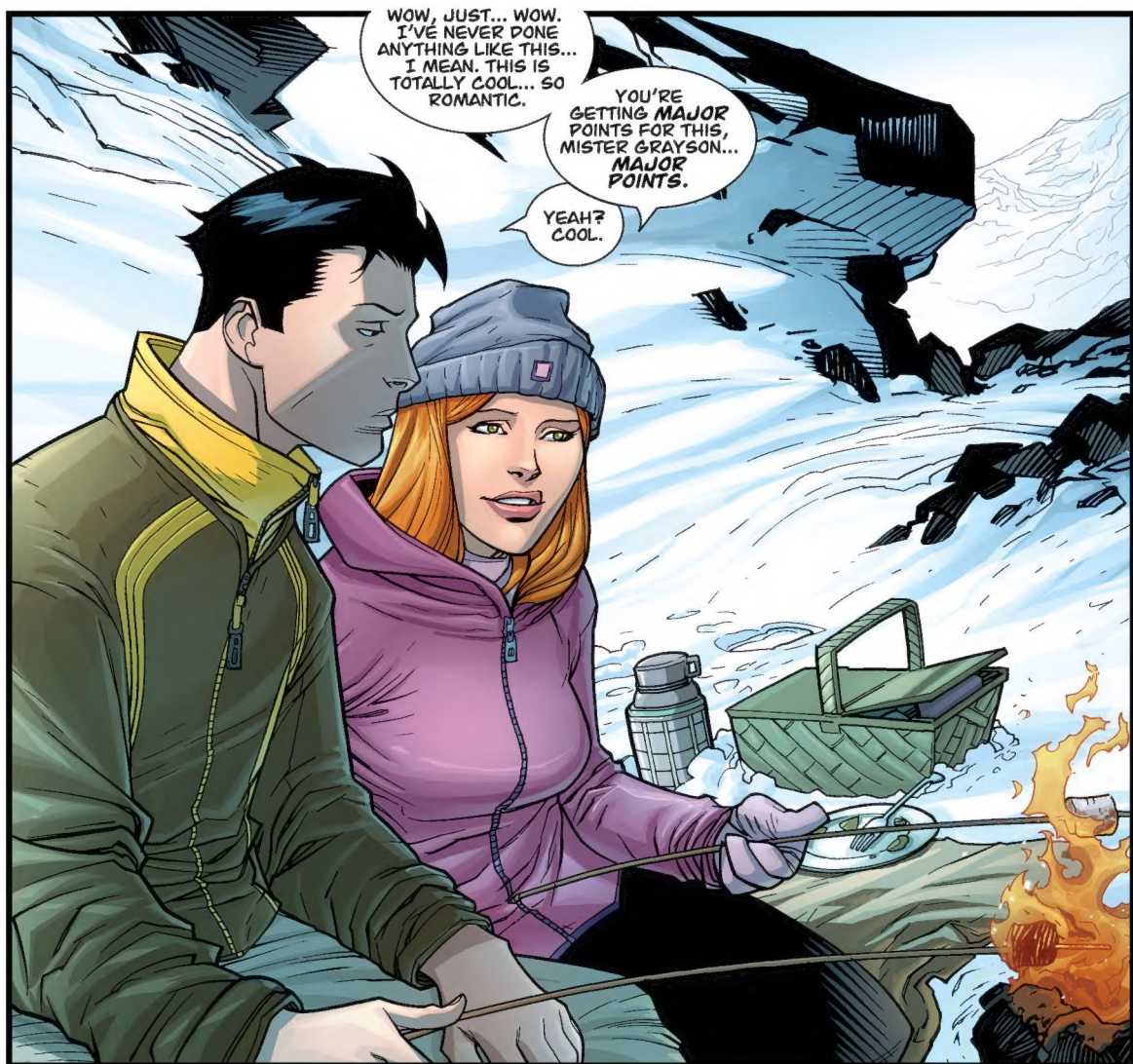
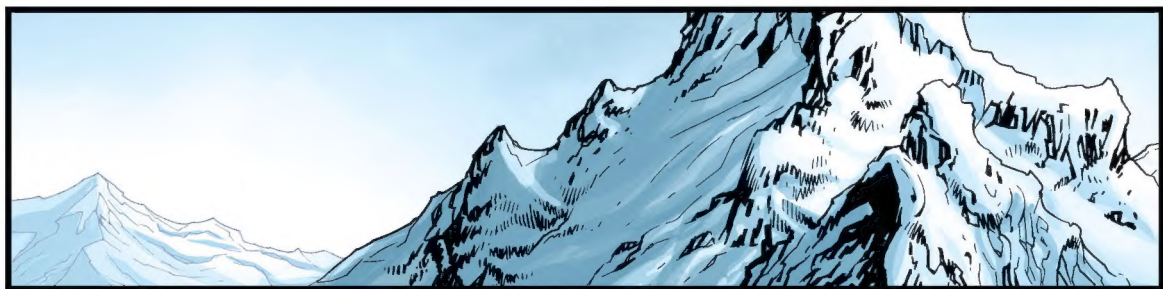
Eric Stephenson - *Publisher*
Joe Keatinge - *PR & Marketing Coordinator*
Branwyn Bigglestone - *Accounts Manager*
Tyler Shainline - *Administrative Assistant*
Traci Hui - *Traffic Manager*
Allen Hui - *Production Manager*
Drew Gill - *Production Artist*
Jonathan Chan - *Production Artist*
Monica Garcia - *Production Artist*

www.imagecomics.com

INVINCIBLE #53. October 2008. Published by Image Comics, Inc., Office of publication: 1942 University Avenue, Suite 305, Berkeley, California 94704. Copyright © 2008 Robert Kirkman & Cory Walker. All rights reserved. INVINCIBLE™ (including all prominent characters featured herein), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Robert Kirkman & Cory Walker, unless otherwise noted. Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. PRINTED IN CANADA.

International Rights Representative: Christine Jensen (christine@glfloydstudio.com)







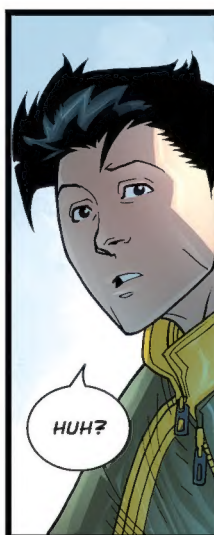
ARE YOU
EVEN
LISTENING
TO ME?



WHAT?



MARK!



HUH?



OH MY GOD--
YOU AREN'T,
ARE YOU?!

I CAN'T
BELIEVE IT!



OH, EVE--I'M
SORRY... REALLY.
I WANTED THIS TO
BE SPECIAL... THIS
IS OUR FIRST REAL
DATE--I JUST, I
DON'T MEAN TO
DRIFT OFF.

I'VE
JUST GOT
A LOT ON
MY MIND.

ARE
YOU STILL
THINKING
ABOUT
OLIVER?



YEAH, I
DON'T KNOW
HOW HE'S DEALING
WITH WHAT HE DID
YESTERDAY--OR IF
HE'S EVEN GIVEN
IT A SECOND
THOUGHT.

I WANT
TO TALK TO
HIM SOME
MORE.

HE KILLED TWO
PEOPLE YESTERDAY...
HE'S STILL JUST A KID.
I CAN'T TAKE MY MIND
OFF THE WHOLE ORDEAL.



I UNDERSTAND...
THAT'S A BIG
DEAL.

DO
YOU WANT
TO LEAVE?
I MEAN, WE CAN
DO THIS AGAIN
SOME OTHER
TIME.

WHAT? NO. I CAN'T DO THAT. THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE SPECIAL. I HATE THAT I'VE RUINED THE MOMENT AS MUCH AS I HAVE ALREADY.

NO WAY.



WHOA--I'M NOT SOME STUPID GIRL YOU HAVE TO BEND OVER BACKWARDS FOR TO KEEP HAPPY. I'M ATOM FRICKIN' EVE-- I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH.

LET'S GO.

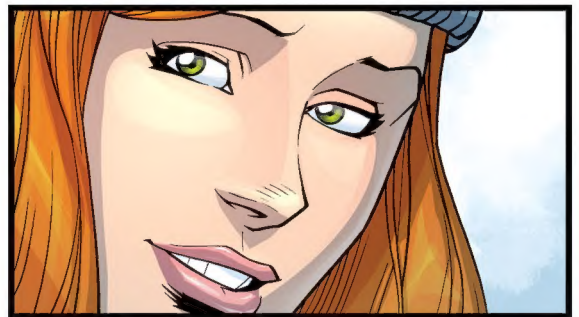
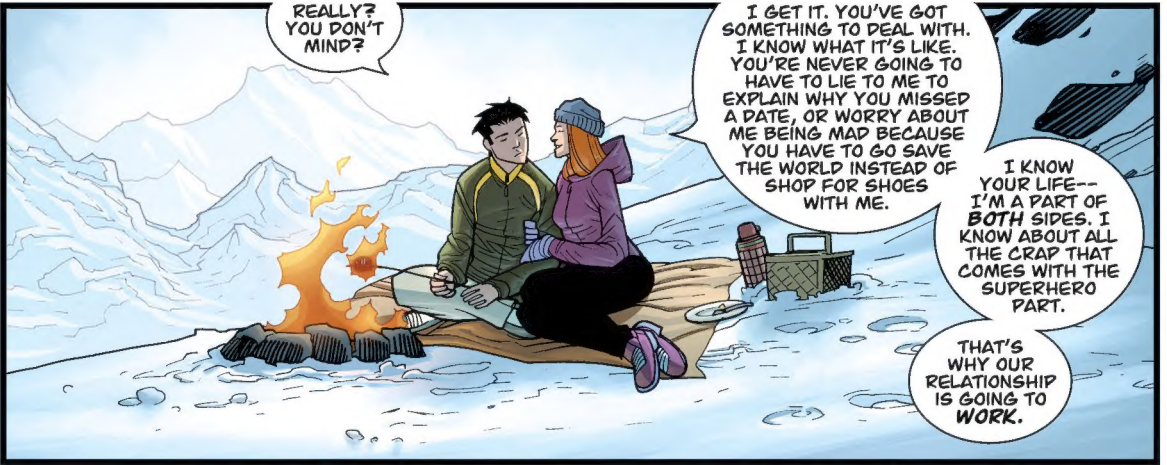


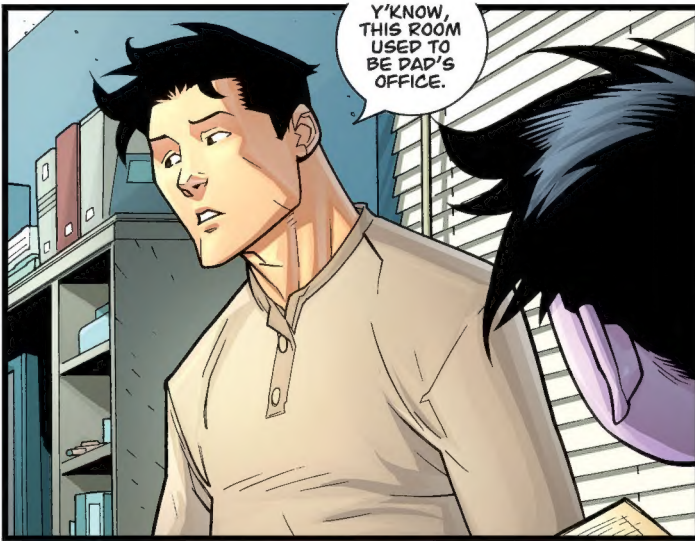
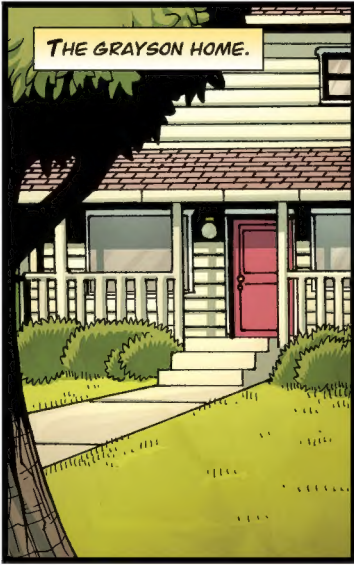
REALLY? YOU DON'T MIND?

I GET IT. YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO DEAL WITH. I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE. YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO HAVE TO LIE TO ME TO EXPLAIN WHY YOU MISSED A DATE, OR WORRY ABOUT ME BEING MAD BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO GO SAVE THE WORLD INSTEAD OF SHOP FOR SHOES WITH ME.

I KNOW YOUR LIFE-- I'M A PART OF BOTH SIDES. I KNOW ABOUT ALL THE CRAP THAT COMES WITH THE SUPERHERO PART.

THAT'S WHY OUR RELATIONSHIP IS GOING TO WORK.





I'M NOT FROM THIS PLANET, MARK. I'M NOT EVEN PARTIALLY HUMAN. I DON'T RELATE TO THESE PEOPLE, I DON'T UNDERSTAND THESE PEOPLE AND IN ALL BUT A FEW CASES I DON'T LIKE THESE PEOPLE.

WHERE I COME FROM, THE GREATER GOOD AND SOCIETY AS A WHOLE ARE VASTLY MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE INDIVIDUAL. MY PEOPLE LIVED SUCH A SHORT TIME--LIFE WAS MEANT TO IMPROVE LIFE FOR OTHERS.

EVERYONE HERE IS SO SELFISH AND SELF-CENTERED. IT'S DISGUSTING.

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS. YOU'VE LIVED HERE MUCH LONGER THAN YOU EVER LIVED WITH YOUR MOTHER'S PEOPLE.

YOU WERE JUST A BABY--

YOU KNOW I HAVE COMPLETE RECOLLECTION OF EVERYTHING I'VE EXPERIENCED IN MY LIFE. I CAN REMEMBER CONVERSATIONS HELD DURING MY BIRTH.

I CAN--

STOP IT--
JUST STOP IT!

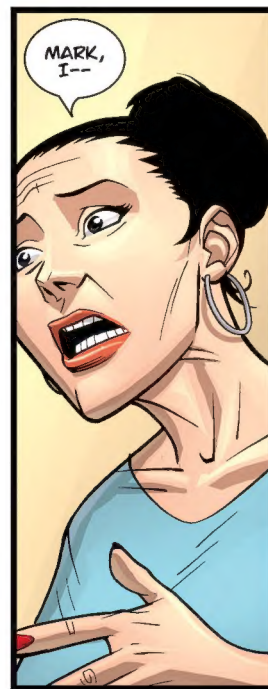
YOU'RE A CHILD--YOU'RE JUST A KID! YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING. YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THINK--WHAT YOU FEEL! YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO BE TALKING LIKE THIS!

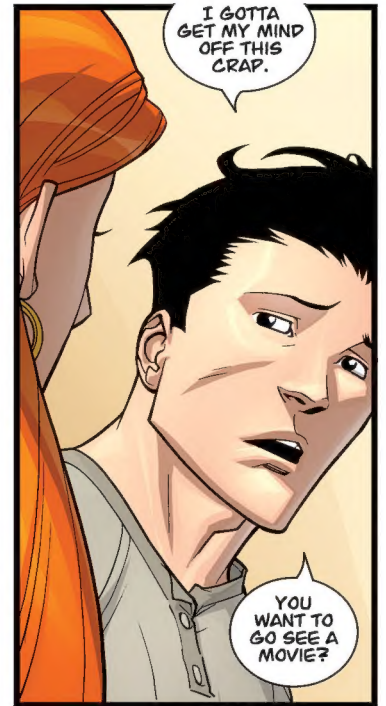
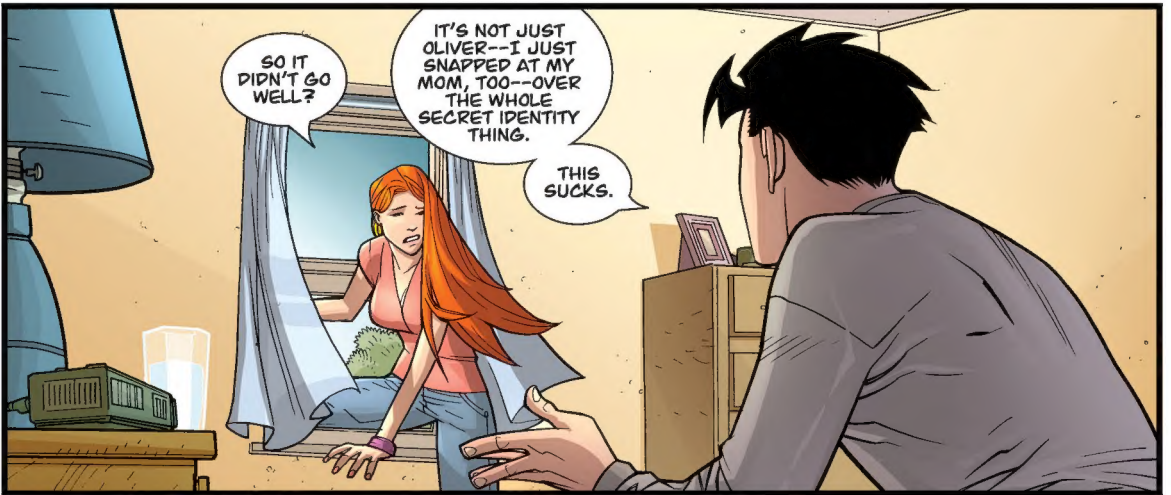
YOUR MIND ISN'T MADE UP ON THESE PEOPLE--ALMOST EVERYTHING YOU KNOW IS FROM READING BOOKS AND WATCHING TV. THAT'S RIDICULOUS. YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!

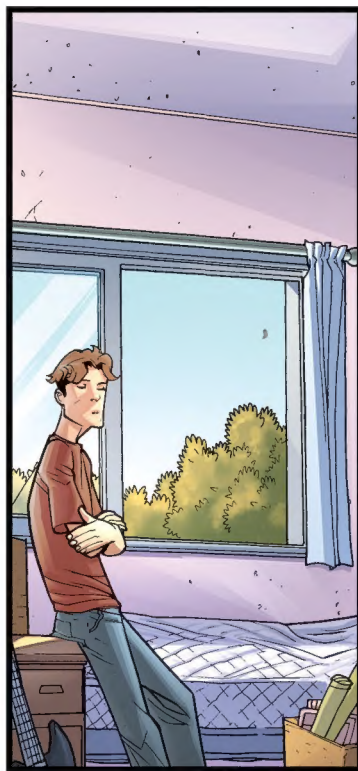
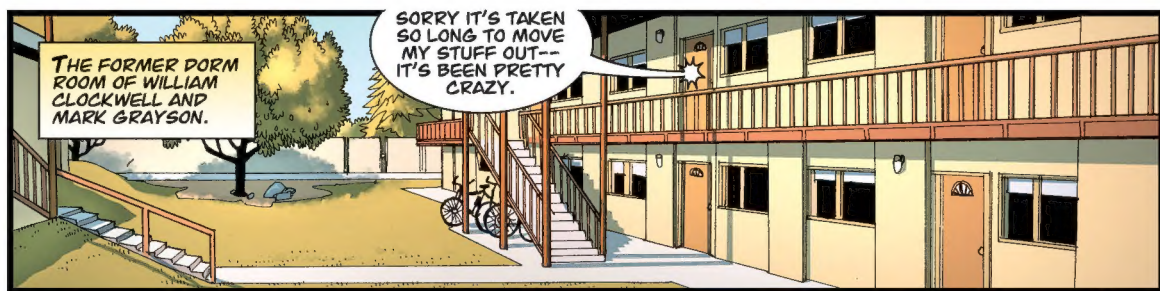
MARK, I RESPECTFULLY DISAGREE. I'VE HAD THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO--

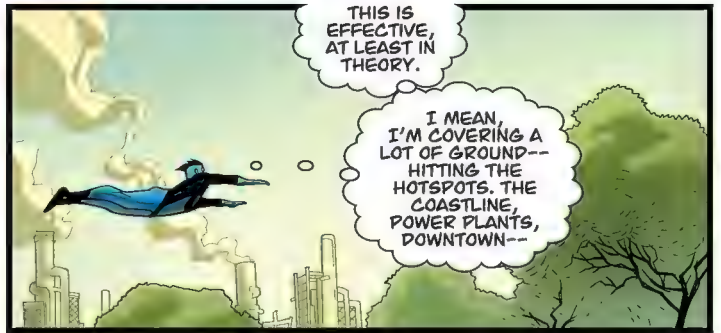
NO,
JUST--
STOP. STOP.

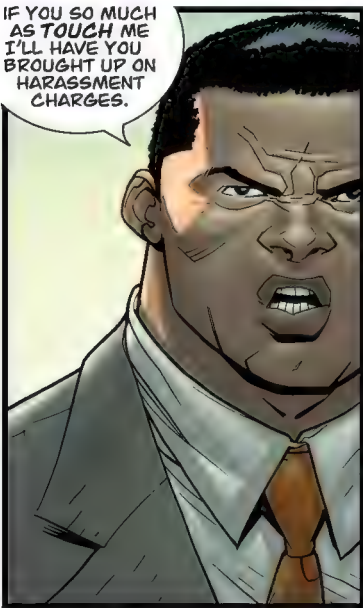
WE'LL CONTINUE THIS LATER.

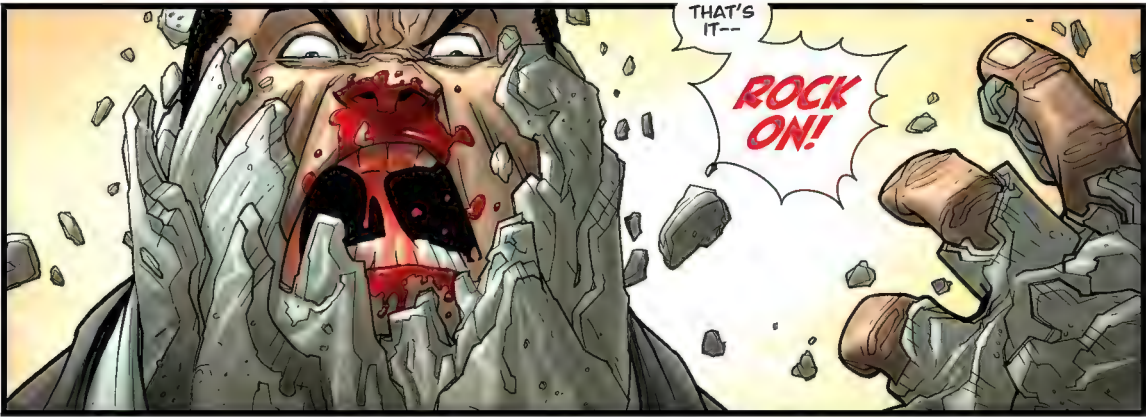
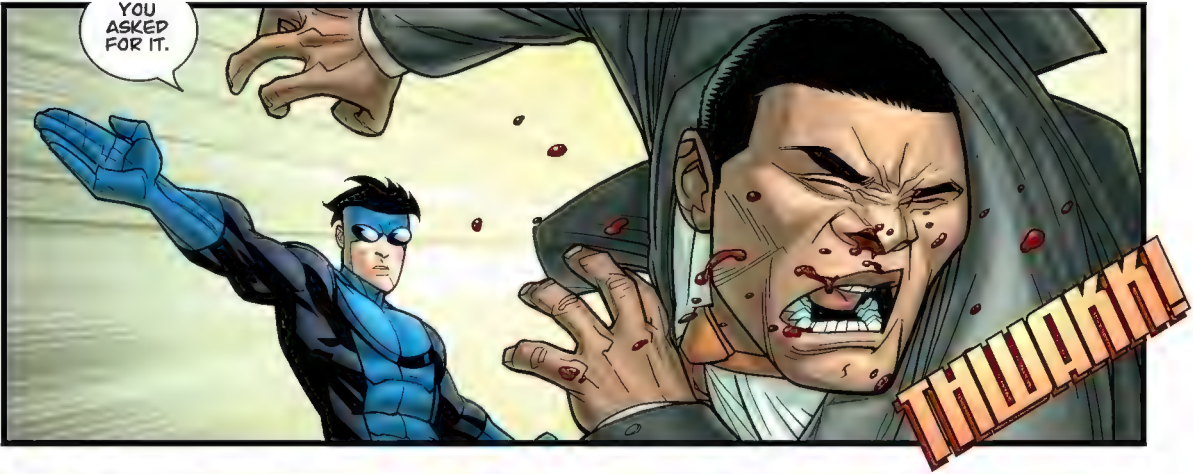










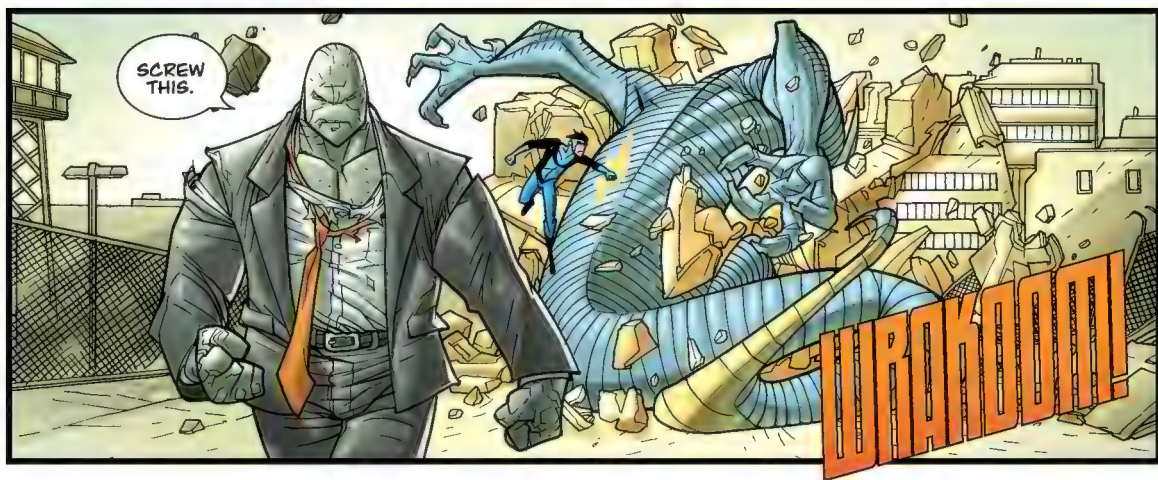
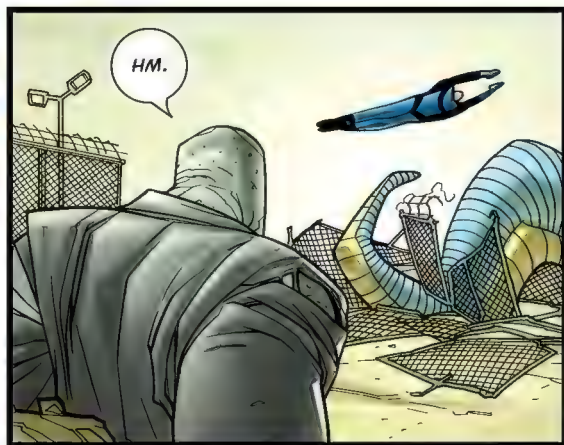
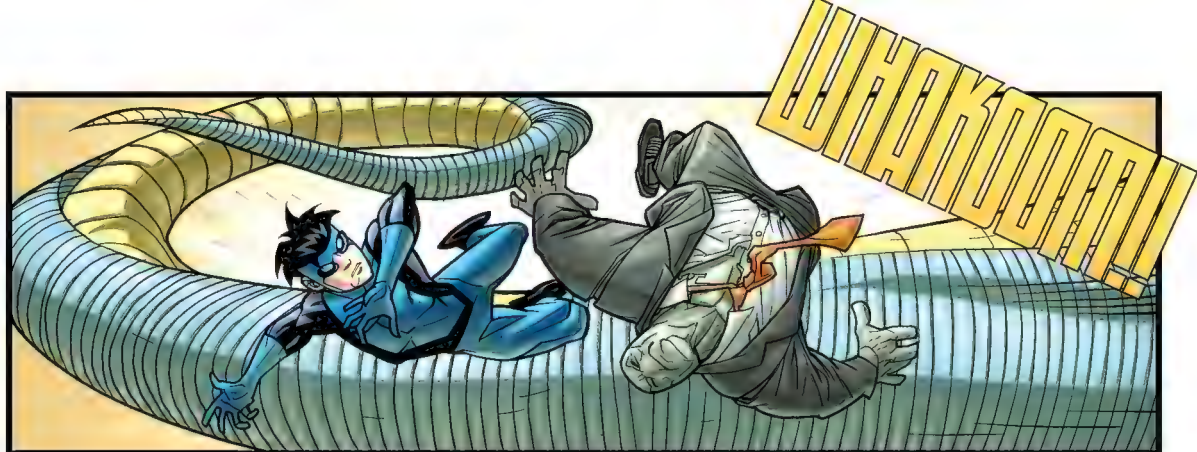


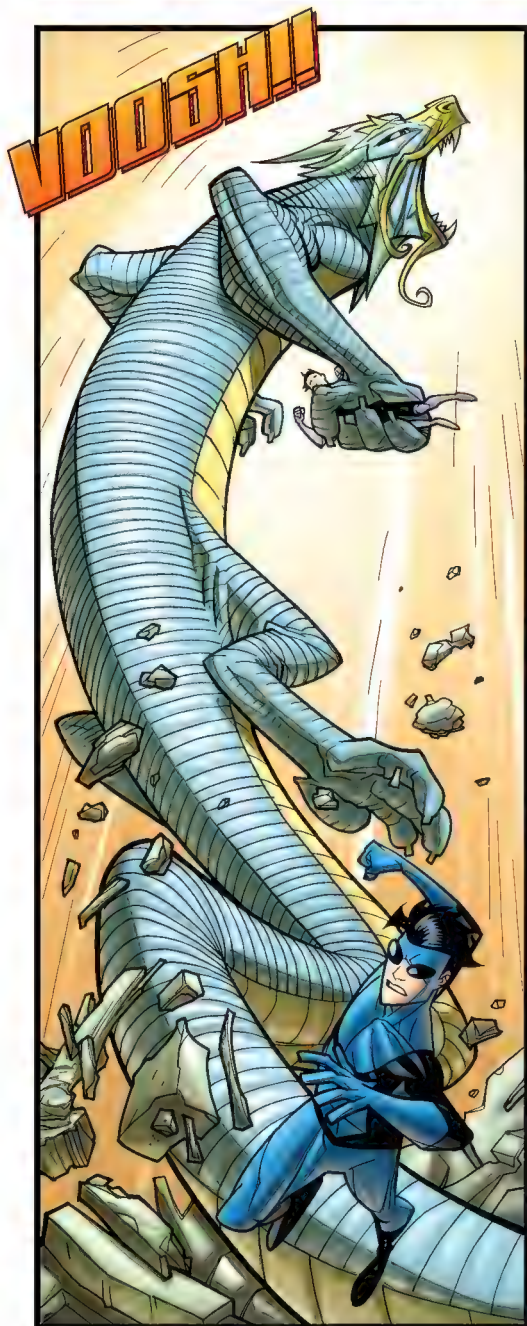
TITAN!

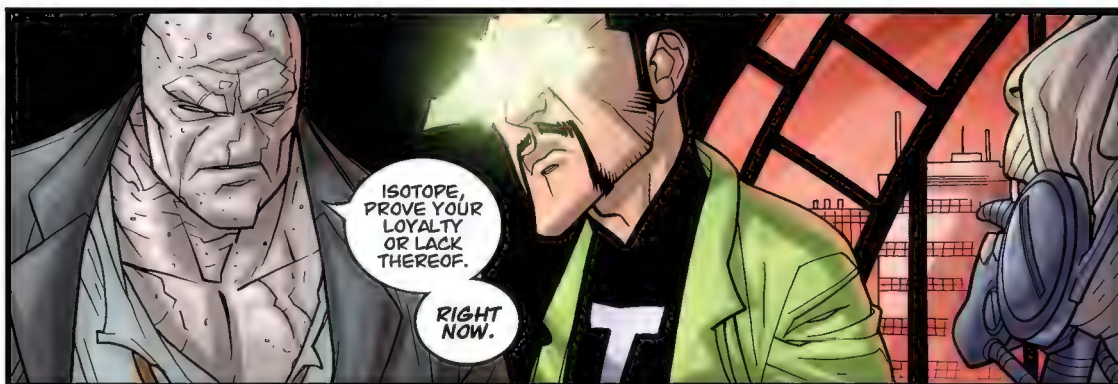
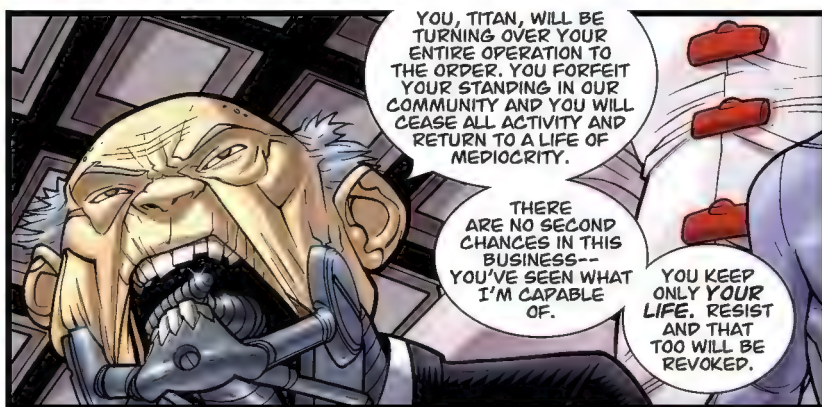
I'VE
WAITED
LONG
ENOUGH--
YOUR TIME
IS UP!

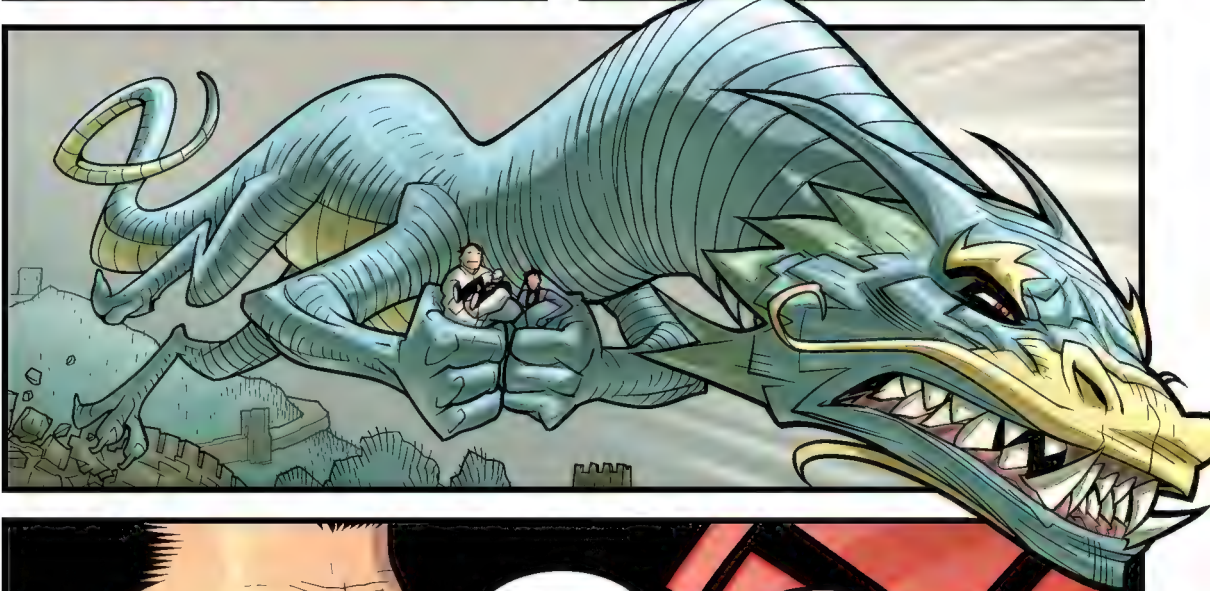


WROKKK-DOOM!











HM.



HEY!
I WAS ON
MY WAY TO
YOUR PLACE.

UH-
AKK!



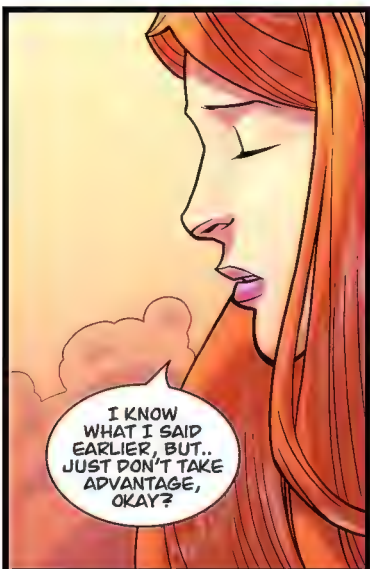
SORRY,
DIDN'T MEAN TO
STARTLE.

THANKS FOR THE
CATCH... NOT USED
TO PEOPLE TALKING
TO ME WHEN I'M
UP HERE.



I WAS
COMING TO
SEE YOU--SAW
THE NEWS ABOUT
STRONGHOLD,
THOUGHT YOU MIGHT
WANT TO HANG OUT
AND TALK OR
SOMETHING.

I WAS
COMING TO SEE
YOU REAL QUICK.
I--I CAN'T DO
ANYTHING
TONIGHT, I'M
SORRY.



I KNOW
WHAT I SAID
EARLIER, BUT..
JUST DON'T TAKE
ADVANTAGE,
OKAY?



I'M
SORRY,
EVE. I
JUST--



ARE YOU
HAPPY
WITH
ME?

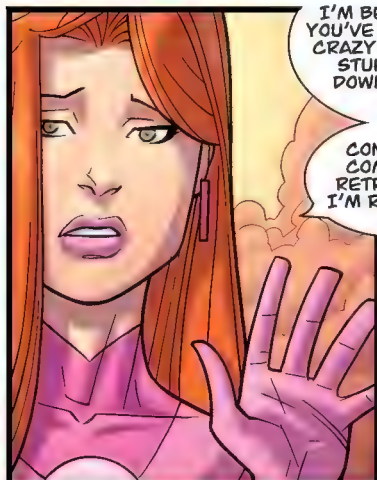


ARE YOU KIDDING?
OF COURSE I'M
HAPPY WITH YOU.
JEEZ--C'MON! I--
I'M TOTALLY
HAPPY WITH
YOU.

YOU CAN'T
TELL? REALLY?
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO
SAY.

I'VE BEEN
DISTRACTED, YES--
MY BROTHER KILLED
A COUPLE GUYS, IT'S
SOMETHING I'VE
GOT TO DEAL
WITH, I--

STOP--
STOP RIGHT
THERE.

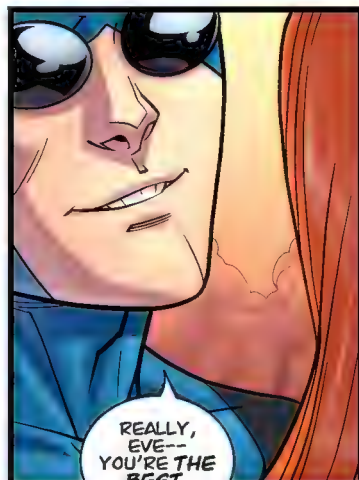


I'M BEING SILLY.
YOU'VE GOT REALLY
CRAZY IMPORTANT
STUFF GOING
DOWN IN YOUR
LIFE.

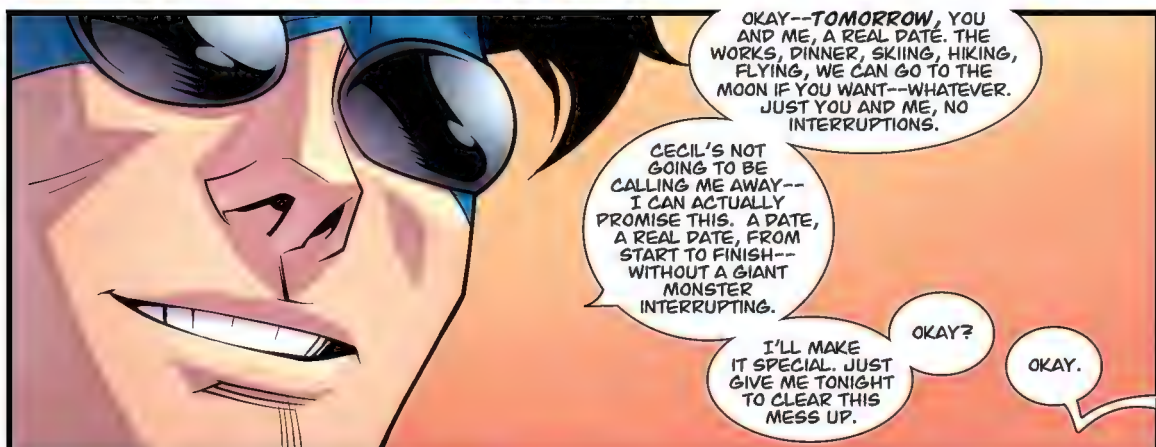
CONSIDER
COMMENT
RETRACTED.
I'M REALLY--



ULP!



REALLY,
EVE--
YOU'RE THE
BEST.



OKAY--TOMORROW, YOU
AND ME, A REAL DATE. THE
WORKS, DINNER, SKIING, HIKING,
FLYING, WE CAN GO TO THE
MOON IF YOU WANT--WHATEVER.
JUST YOU AND ME, NO
INTERRUPTIONS.

CECIL'S NOT
GOING TO BE
CALLING ME AWAY--
I CAN ACTUALLY
PROMISE THIS. A DATE,
A REAL DATE, FROM
START TO FINISH--
WITHOUT A GIANT
MONSTER
INTERRUPTING.

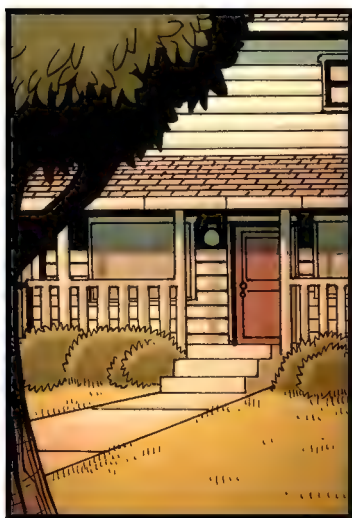
I'LL MAKE
IT SPECIAL. JUST
GIVE ME TONIGHT
TO CLEAR THIS
MESS UP.

OKAY?

OKAY.



GREAT!
I'LL BE AT
YOUR PLACE
AT FIVE.
SEE YOU
THEN!



YOU
DIDN'T
SEE
ME?

NOPE. HOW
HIGH WERE
YOU?



PRETTY
HIGH--I'M
STILL NOT
COMFORTABLE
GOING OUT IN
SPACE,
THOUGH.

GIVE IT TIME, I WAS
KIND OF FORCED INTO
IT, THIS ALIEN WAS
ON HIS WAY AND
DAD CALLED
AND--

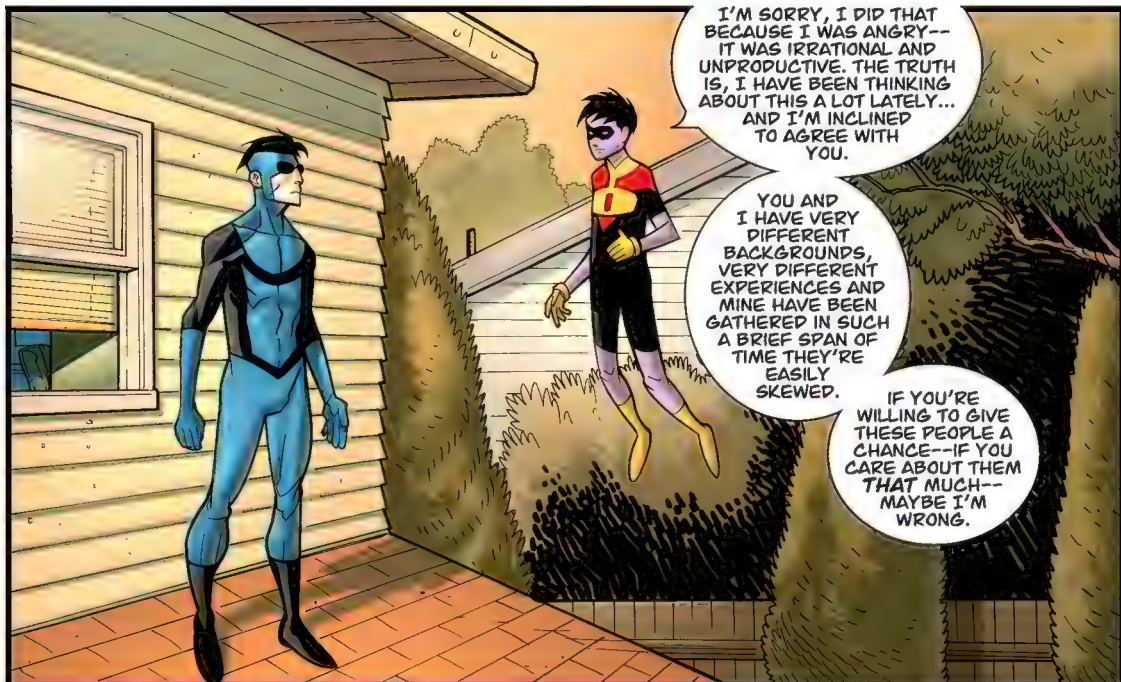
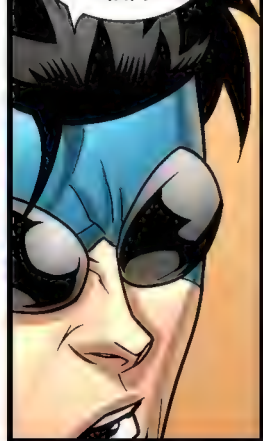


WHAT
ARE YOU DOING
IN COSTUME?
DID YOU--

I DIDN'T
GO ANYWHERE.
I KNOW I'M
"GROUNDED" UNTIL
YOU GET OVER
ME BEING
EFFICIENT.



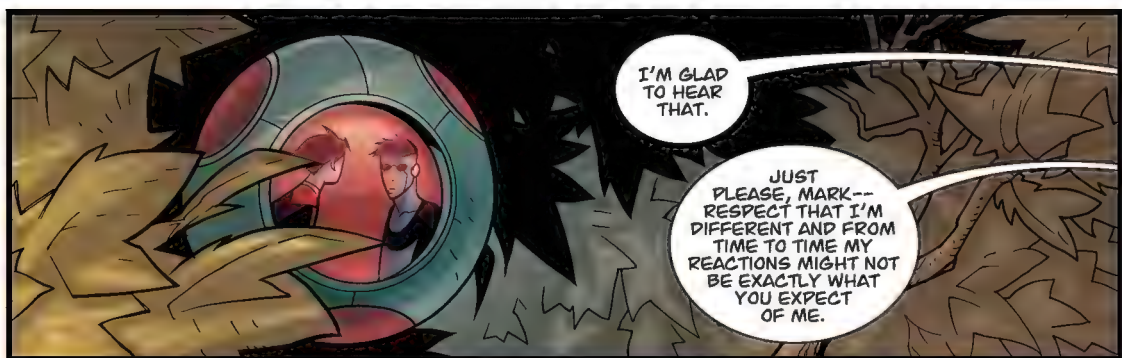
WHEN YOU SAY
IT LIKE THAT--
YOU... DON'T YOU
SEE WHY I'M
REACTING THIS
WAY?



I'M SORRY, I DID THAT
BECAUSE I WAS ANGRY--
IT WAS IRRATIONAL AND
UNPRODUCTIVE. THE TRUTH
IS, I HAVE BEEN THINKING
ABOUT THIS A LOT LATELY...
AND I'M INCLINED
TO AGREE WITH
YOU.

YOU AND
I HAVE VERY
DIFFERENT
BACKGROUNDS,
VERY DIFFERENT
EXPERIENCES AND
MINE HAVE BEEN
GATHERED IN SUCH
A BRIEF SPAN OF
TIME THEY'RE
EASILY
SKEWED.

IF YOU'RE
WILLING TO GIVE
THESE PEOPLE A
CHANCE--IF YOU
CARE ABOUT THEM
THAT MUCH--
MAYBE I'M
WRONG.



I'M GLAD
TO HEAR
THAT.

JUST
PLEASE, MARK--
RESPECT THAT I'M
DIFFERENT AND FROM
TIME TO TIME MY
REACTIONS MIGHT NOT
BE EXACTLY WHAT
YOU EXPECT
OF ME.



I CAN DO
THAT.

C'MERE.



WRITE US @

INVINCIBLE

C/O FUNK-O-TRON

P.O. BOX 1870

RICHMOND, KY 40476

INVINCIBLE@FUNKOTRON.COM

PEN INVINCIBLE PALS

Oh, look--it's Invincible 53. Unless something went horribly wrong, this issue came out pretty rapidly after issue 52... so I hope you guys are happy.

We'll try to do this more often.

Speaking of which, not a lot to report here--so I'm going to just dive right into the letters!

Hello Kirkman,

This is going to be a long one, so get comfortable, grab your favorite drink, and prepare to hear a story about how Free Comic Book Day is one of the most awesome concepts. Ever.

I first ran across your work in Marvel Team Up. I didn't ever know who you were...I picked up the book because it looked cool. I never even knew you wrote this until much later. I read it and it was crap. I was so confused, it seemed really short to me, and just did not grab me at all. Never picked up another issue of the entire series.

Ouch. I had a blast with Marvel Team-Up--oh, well...

The second time I ran across your work was Marvel Zombies. I wasn't quite sure what to make of the concept, so I read it in the comic store. It was disturbing. It seriously offended something in me to see my childhood heroes as fleshing eating monsters. Morbid curiosity and an engaging if disturbing plot kept me reading though. Never bought a single issue; read it all in the comic store. I'm a punk sometimes.

Byrne thief!!

The third time I ran across your work was Ant-Man over at Marvel. I picked up the first couple of issues because it was a new book. I'm a fan of Marvel, so I usually give new books a try if I have the cash. It was interesting. Funny. But a little disturbing too. Making out on his best friend's grave?!? Man. That was ballsy. I almost stopped buying it cause Ant-Man was just such a dick. I enjoyed the book enough though to keep buying it. He was completely unreliable, but it was awesome to have a funny superhero book in the Marvel U. Solid plot, solid art, I own the entire series in issue format.

Getting warmer...

The fourth time I ran across your work though is the most important. It was the time you made me care about completely unknown characters. That was The Astounding Wolf-man #1 free comic book day issue. After reading TAW, I realized I had read other stuff by the Robert Kirkman. Huh. I should check his other stuff out sometime. TAWM is an awesome read, I own every issue, and anxiously await future issues. I was stoked to hear you're going monthly with it. You and the whole team of TAWM keep up the good work there. (Sorry if it seems I'm giving Howard and all the others the short shrift of praise. All the people you work with to help make your plots come alive are outstandingly talented. Comics being a visual medium wouldn't succeed without awesome pencilers, inkers, colorists, letterers, and editors to back up an awesome plot. This, however, is a love letter to you Kirkman...so the others will be a bit underrepresented.)

That's how I prefer it!

Now I was a fan of your work, and whenever I had extra cash would

pick up trades of work you've done before. I eventually picked up the entire run of Marvel Team Up and COMPLETELY changed my opinion of the series. It is one of my favorite trades and portrayals of my Marvel heroes. It was well written, funny, engaging, and everything I could have wanted out of a comic book. The individual issue I picked up wasn't very accessible to me as a new reader, but as a whole the book rocked. I later picked up The Walking Dead trades. Wow. I have never been so freaked out by a comic book as TWD. It seriously creeped me out. I look forward to catching up to the individual issues but TWD also creeped me out enough I wasn't driven to read everything right away.

Sissy!

Then last week I finally bought a copy of Invincible Ultimate Collection Vol 1. Now I have the entire series (except issue 48...back issues are hard to find for a comic as popular as Invincible...four local stores checked and all sold out) and have neglected over two days worth of work reading the entire Invincible saga through issue 50. It was so incredibly awesome! I am completely hooked. I couldn't stop myself from getting the whole series. I just had to find out what happened next. Forget "Probably", it is the best superhero book in the universe! The entire

Invincible team from issue 1 to 50 has put together one of the best reads around. The pacing, tone, balance of action, humor, romance, and drama really are outstanding at giving the reader a whole roller coaster ride of emotions. I could give you tons of examples of this, but you know your own book. The most amazing thing to me is how I care about all the characters in the book. I want to see what Robot's next phase is all about. Will Monster Girl keep getting younger? Will Rex ever learn better manners? And what about Allen?! Man. It's going to suck now having to wait another month just to get one more issue worth of story.

In my mind, with Invincible you have created the best superhero of my adult life. All the Marvel and DC heroes were ones I grew up with. There's nostalgia and a sense of childhood tied into why I like them. With Invincible, it's just plain awesomeness that makes me love the book. All your work has been great fun reads, but it is Invincible that really blows me away. Issue 50 was a great end piece to my week of catching up. I cannot say enough about the art backing up the awesome plot. I love Ryan Ottley's work on the book, especially layouts like pages 9-10 (or 10-11, depending on how you count the pages). It really makes the story sometimes. The entire Invincible team has put together my new favorite comic. It has really made my week finding such an outstanding, epic book like Invincible. I look forward to owning every issue of Invincible from now(even pesky #48...there's got to be some stores which don't sell out).

Dude... EBAY!

And all because of Free Comic Book Day and The Astounding Wolf-man. That was my gateway drug into the awesomeness that is Invincible and Kirkman and crew.

Have I used awesome enough? I don't think so. Awesome, AWESome, AWESOME!

Thanks everyone. Keep up the AWESOME work.

Cheers,
Nate Butler

Wow--AWESOME! I think you're the first documented case of someone coming to Invincible through The Astounding Wolf-Man. Thanks for continuing to give me a shot after not enjoying Marvel Team-Up, Marvel Zombies... and everything else you read of my.

Really, though--you should hunt down the two collected volumes of The Irredeemable Ant-Man... that's probably the best book I've done at Marvel (so far--there are more on the way). You might like it now.

Dear Robert,

I think this issue worked alright! As ever with these types of things, the backups--and the fact that there even were backup stories--kinda sucked. Why are the backups always After the main event anyway?? In wrestling they always have the main event Last! Seems to work out okay.

Sincerely,
Andrew J. Shaw

Screw wrestling! The back-ups are last... because they're... BACK-UPS. They "back-up" the main story if you will... that's kind of why they're called "BACK-UPS!" Go back to issue 25 and read the Science Dog story before you read the one from issue 50... if you read them both at the same time I think you'll enjoy it more. And if you didn't like that Cecil back-up... I don't know what to tell you, man... that thing is totally integral to the issue. That said, we'll try harder next time, Andrew. We aim to keep you happy! Thanks for reading.

Hey Kirkman,

I'm not here to tell you how awesome Invincible is (although we both know that it is). Instead, I'm here to tell you how lame I am that it took me up until the 9th TPB to catch on to your clever running gag you have going on with naming the TPB's. I just picked up Vol. 9 the other week and finally realized how you've been naming each volume after an old TV sitcom. Funny stuff. Just another facet of your writing/humour that I enjoy. Keep it up.

Jesse Regan

Huh? What are you talking about? I suppose... yeah... I guess some of those titles (most of them?) are similar to the titles of sitcoms... but I assure you it's not intentional. I mean... is Family Matters even a sitcom? I don't remember one.

Dear Mr. Kirk-

I have an ongoing argument with my friends about the correct pronunciation of Cecil Stedman's name. I pronounce it SEE-SUL but they pronounce it SES-IL, like the baseball player Cecil Fielder. Can you please help us settle this argument.

-Dimitri Vastardis

It's pronounced Sea-Kill actually.

...

Oh, I can't do it. I pronounce it See-Sill--but your mileage may vary.

Penvincipals,

Congratulations to the whole Invincible team on reaching 50 issues, and thank you to everyone who's been involved with the creation and development of the Invincible comic for making what i consider to be

the best and most consistent comic being produced today.

Issue 50 was excellent - from the regular Invincible story (which was fantastic), through the Cecil Stedman story and to the Science Dog story (which was incredibly fun). I particularly enjoyed Rex Splode's moments in the main story, i can't wait for his own "Invincible Presents" story (hint, hint)!

Soon... very soon.

I've never stuck with an comic I've bought at issue 1 for 50 issues so Invincible must be special (unless you count all the relaunches Marvel has done... And i don't)!

Thanks again, and i look forward to issue 100!

John Turner
UK

You and me both, John... issue 100... oh, it's so close I can TASTE IT!

Hey there!

I don't want to jump in with my comment without taking a moment to say congratulations to the lot of you. Invincible is a fantastic read and you gents that make it possible are my heroes. (Well, Invincible is too). I also wanted to tip my hat off to Bill. His work on Invincible is some of the most impressive coloring I've ever seen, and most certainly my favorite.

I agree--very sorry to see Bill go. FCO is doing a FANTASTIC job, and Ryan and I couldn't be happier to have him on board... but it was hard at first knowing that 50 would be the last issue colored by Bill.

To get to the comment: Mr. Kirkman, a lot of Penvincipals is used to sing your praises (deserved, I believe), and it struck me that our favorite comic author is our main protagonist's. What does Mark read? Science Dog. Who writes that? You. So in some weird time-and-reality-bending-loop you've managed to make Invincible favorite author- you. I would have said that it wasn't possible, but now I know just how far your talent extends. Impressive.

Actually, Science Dog, in the Invincible universe, is written and drawn by Filip Schaff. I'm not really that narcissistic.

Now that I have faith in your power, I am going to be on the look out for a Mark Grayson on the Penvincipal page.
Waiting for the next issue,

Sheli Hay

I'll be on the lookout for that too!

This issue's pin-up is by RANSOM GETTY! Who is another artist I think we'll be seeing very much more of in the coming months. He's very talented and the pin-up is AWESOME. Thanks, Ransom.

Okay... now onto the next issue. I'll see you all back here very soon.

—Robert Kirkman

INVINCIBLE

IMAGE COMICS GROUP



299¢
CC

181
NOV
081708

PROBABLY
THE BEST SUPER HERO
COMIC BOOK IN THE UNIVERSE!

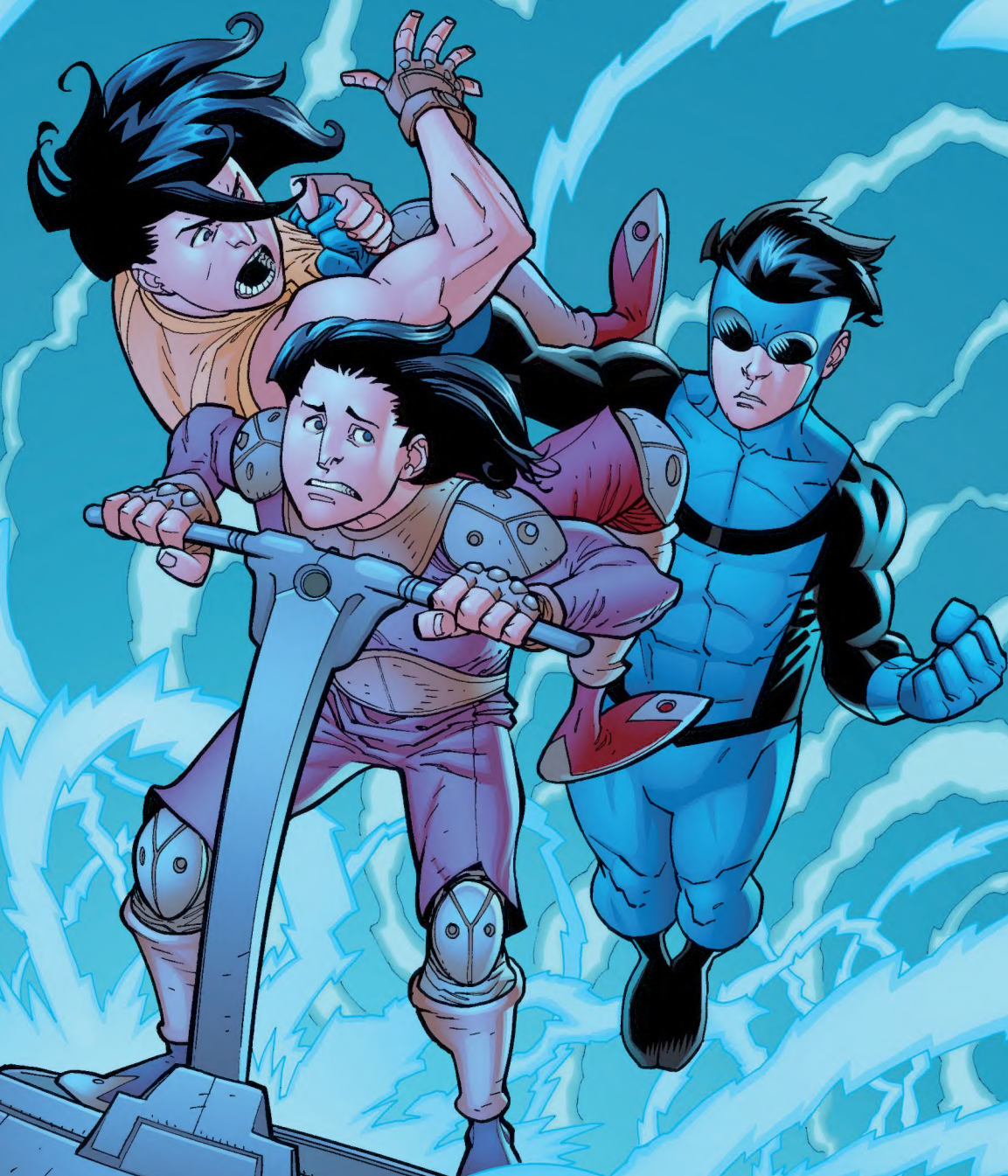
INVINCIBLE

BATTLING...
the **SOVIET REANIMAN!**

HE'S HERE!
THE WORLD'S FIRST
TEEN-AGED
**VILTRUMITE
SUPER-
HERO!**



FIGHTMASTER AND DROP KICK RETURN!



NEXT ISSUE